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(c) whether the Government propose to give any special facilities to these people to improve the land and make it productive ; and

(d) whether they have considered the question of waiving the assessment for the first few years until the land brings in a return ?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government are not aware that the facts are as alleged.

(c) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

(d) The question of remitting for the first few years the assessment on all lands assigned to the depressed classes in the Presidency was considered by the Government in 1922 The Government then came to the conclusion that a general exemption of this kind was not calculated to further the object in view. The Government have, however, sanctioned the exemption of lands assigned to the depressed classes from the liability to pay assessment and irrigation cess in certain special cases, e.g., lands in the Divi Island, and in Kistna and Nellore districts.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" With reference to the answer to clauses (a) and (b), may I know whether Government will call for a report from South Kanara ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Yes, Sir."

Reservation and Assignment of lands to depressed classes.

* 110 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(i) to place before the Council a statement showing

(a) the areas in the several districts of lands,

(1) reserved for the depressed classes,

(2) assigned to them,

(b) the conditions as to payment of assessment, cultivation, building houses, etc., under which such lands have been assigned and

(c) the areas of lands resumed for neglect of the terms, and

(ii) to state—

(a) whether on the whole the conditions laid down have been observed by the assignees ;

(b) how many wells have been dug (i) by the assignees or (ii) by Government in the lands assigned and at what cost ; and

(c) what steps have been taken (i) to notify the survey numbers or sub-survey numbers of the lands (a) reserved for the depressed classes, and (b) assigned to them, and (ii) to indicate by walls or fences such (a) reserved and (b) assigned lands ?

A.—(i) (a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to statements VII and II appended to the Administration Report of the Labour Department for the year ending 31st March 1927 printed in G.O. No. 2434 L., dated 26th October 1927, which has been placed on Editor's Table.

(b) The assignment of cultivable land to depressed classes is on ordinary ryotwari tenure with the special conditions specified in clauses (d) and (f) of paragraph 38 of B.S.O.

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No. 15. The assignment of house-sites in villages is free of assignment and subject to the conditions specified in Appendix XXI at page 82 of Board's Standing Orders, Volume II.

(c) The Government have no details on this point.

(ii) (a) The Government cannot say as no detailed investigation of the matter has been yet made. The Commissioner of Labour and the Board of Revenue are considering the question of organizing a system of regular inspection of lands assigned to depressed classes in order to ensure that the special condition prohibiting alienation is observed and that the assignees really own the land assigned.

(b) The hon. Member is referred to paragraph 50 and statement VI in the Administration Report printed in G.O. No. 2434 L., dated 26th October 1927, referred to above which contains all the information that has been compiled.

(c) (i) (a) The hon. Member is referred to B.P. No. 1187, dated 5th March 1925, which was laid on the Council table on 20th August 1925.

(c) (i) (b) The Government presume that assigned lands are omitted from the lists published under the Board's instructions referred to in the answer to the previous clause ; but will enquire.

(c) (ii) (a) & (b) Walls and fences are not recognized survey marks under the Madras Survey and Boundaries Act, VIII of 1923. Assigned lands are mapped by survey numbers and subdivisions and demarcated with stones separately from unassigned lands.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" With reference to clause (i) (c), will Government be pleased to call for a report on the subject ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" If the hon. Member will refer to the answer to clause (ii) (a), it would be clear that ' the Commissioner of Labour and the Board of Revenue are considering the question of organizing a system of regular inspection of lands assigned to depressed classes in order to ensure that the special condition prohibiting alienation is observed and that the assignees really own the land assigned.' In view of that, the Government do not propose to make an independent enquiry."

Land Revenue

Land Revenue Bill based on joint Parliamentary Committee's recommendations.

* 111 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a Land Revenue Bill to carry out the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee of 1919 during the life of this Council ;

(b) if not, why not ; and

(c) when this Government addressed the Government of India last on this Bill, and what was their reply ?